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Agenda item 3 (a)
Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation: follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly and the Council

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Bernd Niehaus (Costa Rica), on the basis of informal consultations

Funding operational activities for development of the United Nations system

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 53/192 of 15 December 1998 on the triennial policy review of operational activities for development and Council resolution 1999/6 of 23 July 1999,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Reiterates* that the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities of the United Nations system should be, *inter alia*, their universal, voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality, impartiality and multilateralism and their ability to respond to the development needs of developing countries in a flexible manner, and that all operational activities must be country-driven, in response to and in accordance with the national development plans, policies and priorities of the recipient Governments concerned;

3. *Stresses* the primary responsibility of national Governments for their country's development and recognizes the importance of national ownership of development programmes;

4. *Recognizes* that operational activities are one of the major pillars of the United Nations and play a fundamental role in the creation of a more united, peaceful, and prosperous world;

5. *Strongly reaffirms* that the impact of operational activities for development of the United Nations system must be enhanced by, *inter alia*, a

* Reissued for technical reasons.
[1] E/2000/46.

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substantial increase in their funding on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, commensurate with the increasing needs of developing countries, as well as through the full implementation of General Assembly resolutions 47/199 of 22 December 1999, 48/162 of 20 December 1993, 50/120 of 20 December 1995, 53/192 and parts relevant to operational activities for development of General Assembly resolution 52/12 B of 19 December 1997;

6. *Reaffirms* the need for priority allocation of scarce grant resources to programmes and projects in low income countries, particularly the least developed countries, and in this context expresses concern over any further decline in programme expenditures in those countries and encourages all efforts to reverse this situation;

7. *Stresses* the need for a continuous overall improvement, within existing mandates, in the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the United Nations system in delivering its development assistance, and welcomes the steps that have been taken to that end;

8. *Stresses further* in this regard the continued need for funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations development system to continue to report on the overall results achieved to their executive boards or governing bodies and to the Council;

9. *Reaffirms* that core resources, because they are untied resources, are the bedrock of the operational activities of the United Nations system and in this regard notes with serious concern, the overall decline or stagnation in core resources available to many United Nations funds and programmes, in particular the United Nations Development Programme;

10. *Notes* the efforts of the Executive Boards and secretariats of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund and of the United Nations Children's Fund to establish multi-year funding frameworks that integrate programme objectives, resources, budgets and outcomes, with the objective of increasing core resources and enhancing their predictability, and in this regard invites them to continue to develop and refine the frameworks as a strategic resource management tool;

11. *Appreciates* in this context the efforts of countries, including donor and programme countries, which have increased or maintained their high level of contributions to the core resources of United Nations funds and programmes during 1999 and 2000 and also of those which have made multi-year pledges to core resources;

12. *Underlines* the need to avoid overdependence on a limited number of donors, emphasizes the importance of shared responsibility, taking into account established official development assistance targets, including targets established at the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, and calls on donors and other countries in position to do so to increase their contributions to the core/regular resources of United Nations funds and programmes;

13. *Notes* the increase in and the importance of non-core resources, including cost-sharing, trust funds and non-traditional sources of financing as a mechanism to enhance the capacity and to supplement the means of operational activities for development, contributing to an increase in total resources, even though

unsatisfactory because the increase in non-core resources cannot compensate for the decline in the level of core resources;

14. *Also notes* in this context, the contributions by private sources, which can supplement, but cannot substitute for contributions by governments, to finance or extend programmes implemented within existing guidelines of United Nations funds and programmes;

15. *Reaffirms* that South-South cooperation, including technical and economic cooperation among developing countries, offers viable opportunities for the development of developing countries, and in this context reiterates its request that the executive boards of the funds and programmes review with a view to considering an increase in the allocation of resources for activities involving technical cooperation among developing countries;

16. *Requests* the Secretary General, in the context of the next triennial policy review, to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the progress in the implementation of the multi-year funding frameworks, as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen the strategic resource management in the funds and programmes and to reverse the declining trend in core resources.